

Chatham Township Environmental Commission
58 Meyersville Rd, Chatham, NJ 07928, 973-635-4600

Minutes of the Tuesday, March 6, 2012 CTEC Meeting

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:26 pm on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members L. Caprioglio, S. Carroll, P. Collington, F. Esposito, D. Stillinger, Township Liaison Kathy Abbott.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: to undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2012 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and mentioned on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. It has also been published in the Chatham Courier and Daily Record newspapers. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETING DATES FOR 2012 AND JANUARY 2013.

Every first Tuesday (except no meeting in July) at 7:15 PM at the Chatham Township Municipal Building: Second Tuesday, Jan 10, 2012, first Tuesdays Feb. 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July no meeting, August 7, Sept. 4, October 2, November 6, December 4, and January 8 (second Tuesday), 2013.

CTEC and Green Team minutes from February 7, 2012 were approved, motioned by Frank Esposito, 2nd by Dot Stillinger, with all in favor. CTEC minutes were approved with a minor edit.

GREEN TEAM MEETING

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair. – 7:34-7:51

Reviewed Action Reports: Energy Action & Outreach – Waiting on new terms

Green Challenge – Disappointed thus far

Municipal Carbon Footprint – finished electricity report for the township

Water Conservation Education Program – needs completion

Recycling Depot – signs are installed

Reviewed Action Status: Sustainable Jersey 2012 changes: NRI, Open Space, Grass Cut It Leave It
Anti Idling & Rain Garden – need review

REVISED STEEP SLOPES ORDINANCE – DISCUSSION – Planning Board subcommittee discussed and reviewed the Washington Township ordinance (on ANJEC website). Although some members of the Planning Board seem to agree with this ordinance, Mr. Caprioglio would like to continue discussion and develop a more stringent ordinance that focuses on steep lots. D. Stillinger did not think it was sufficient and should be modified for Chatham's needs. There are weaknesses in this ordinance.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

NEW. Simonfay application to NJDEP for General Permit and Individual Transition Area Waiver dated 2-7-12, Block 48.10 Lot 7, 118 Westminster Road, Chatham Township, NJ 07928. Applicant proposes to widen the driveway, construct a patio and construct a house addition. The rear yard has encroached into Exceptional Resource value wetlands. CTEC recommends that the wetlands be restored and fenced off. Approve memo to NJDEP. S. Carroll motioned to approved memo to NJDEP and L. Caprioglio 2nd, with all in favor.

NEW. Application dated February 2012, Public Service Electric and Gas Company application for Modified Freshwater Wetlands Statewide General Permit #2 for installation of new natural gas distribution mains in public rights-of-way (for the PSE&G natural gas distribution system). Approve memo to NJDEP urging less destructive vegetation maintenance in utility rights-of-way. S. Carroll motioned to approved memo to NJDEP and P. Collington 2nd, with all in favor.

PENDING. LONGVIEW/FENIX. 2-2-11. Block 32 Lots 2, 6 and 8, Block 33, Lots 1, 14, 17 and 20. Ronald Gunn. Longview Road. R-3 (half-acre) zone. Application to Planning Board for 7 lot major subdivision on Longview Road.

Propose to subdivide existing upper 4 lots into 7 lots. Requesting C(2) hardship variances for disturbance of steep slopes, height of structural retaining walls. Three of the current 4 upper lots have 25% slopes on less than a fifth of the lot. Proposed lots will be sewerred; there is a utility easement across an off-site lower lot to provide sewer access. Two nearby homes are on septic and one home is on well water. 156 trees over 12" in diameter including at least 9 of 30" or more in diameter are proposed to be removed. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3, 2011. New plans call for a conservation easement on the stormwater basin lots and a "tree non-disturbance easement" on a 20 foot wide strip along the rear of the upper lots.

PENDING. Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15. 7-22-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for proposed single family dwelling on steep slopes. This parcel is on the lower side of the road near where a previous construction project caused damage to downslope neighbors. Site visit was Sat. Dec. 3, applicant or representatives did not attend. Application may have been before the BOA on January 26, 2012. Memo was sent from CTEC to BOA.

PENDING. D'onofrio, 29 Candace Lane, B 38 L 31. 8-26-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for rear yard setback to construct an addition. Steep slopes. Waiting for completeness review.

PENDING. Russo, B 39 L 30, 112 Candace Lane. 7-27-11. Application to Board of Adjustment for variance for rear yard setback to construct a deck. There is a conservation easement on the steep slopes. Waiting for completeness review.

PENDING. PSE&G expansion of power line right-of-way. 6-13-11, application to NJDEP for freshwater wetlands general permit to do construction work along the ROW. Memo to NJDEP with a similar memo to NJBPU was mailed and also was presented at the public hearing on Thursday, September 8, 2011.

PENDING. Rolling Knolls Superfund site at the end of Britten Road. No new information.

REPORTS

Planning Board report. L. Caprioglio, Planning Board liaison.

Longview/Fenix application, Township Engineer wants additional testing, namely hydro testing. Applicant asked for 2 extensions. Market Garden Ordinance & The Right to Farm Act continues to be discussed, with subject matter of lot size and grandfathered property.

Township Committee report. K. Abbott. MUA will have a County drop off and hazardous waste event to be held at Chatham High School in June.

Open Space Committee report. P. Collington, S. Krishnan - Open Space Committee liaisons. Pat and Shankar held a Power Point presentation regarding conservation easements for the Open Space Committee. Open Space acquired the Averett property, at this time the property needs to be cleaned up, a grant will be applied for and trails will be made. Another property on Green Village Road has been acquired. Open Space and Planning Board are impressed with and would like to mimic CTEC's webpage.

Community Education and Outreach Committee report. P. Collington - Chair. Eco film on Water and Conservation held 2/2 At Chatham Library, received a nomination for Green Fest Environmental Award, continued with assisting township with projects and program that the town runs along with the school system. Assisted a girl scout with achieving the gold award.

Communications Committee report. F. Esposito - Chair, P. Collington. Press releases submitted with the assistance of students, communicating with the condo's, mostly Heritage Green which is in the process of revising their recycling to single stream. They arranged to have 1 shed reorganized to introduce single stream recycling. In time, this will reduce garbage footprint.

Recycling Committee report. F. Esposito, Chair. A tour of Tanglewood and the sewer plant will be arranged for a date in May to include commission members, committee members and possibly residents. A suggestion of purchasing a reusable bag for each condo resident (500-700) in which they would cart their recycling to their recycling area was suggested. This would establish an efficient and more productive way to ensure that recycling in the condo community would take place.

DISCUSSION/ACTIONS

- On June 23 the MCMUA will host the county's residential Household Hazardous Waste event at the high school. K. Abbott
- NRI revision. NRI Committee met on 9-6-11, 10-8-11, 10-24-11, 11-14-11, 2-1-12, 2-22-12. Subcommittee will do most of the updating with volunteers. All welcome to participate. Visit <http://allcat.tzo.com> to view the current draft. S. Carroll, S. Krishnan, D. Stillinger, M. Palmer.

- Safe Routes to School - update.
- Note alternatives being proposed for Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The word on the street is that Option B is most favored. Read the Plan at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20Swamp/ccphome.html>.
- Green Fair 2012. Any interest in having CTEC participate?
- 10th Annual Cleanup, Saturday, April 21, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. If you wish, choose a task.
- Monday, February 27, 6 PM, public hearing on the draft of the new State Plan. Frelinghuysen Arboretum. Read the Plan at http://nj.gov/state/planning/docs/dfplan_proposed.pdf. D. Stillinger attended.
- Student volunteers for CTEC. Activities, projects. P. Collington, F. Esposito.
- Identify a stormwater mitigation project to make use of funds in escrow account of East Park Builders, which is unable to meet its stormwater requirements on site on Mountainview Ave.
- A memo was submitted to the Township Committee asking for open space tax funds to clean up an old household trash dump, now called the Green Village Pond Conservation Area, on Township property on Green Village Road to make possible a future nature trail. Project will be continued. D. Stillinger.
- PSE&G's proposed power line upgrade. About 2.5 miles are in Chatham Township. Of the 15 towns along the route Chatham Township has the second-longest run, after Livingston's 10 miles. Berkeley Heights has about 2 miles. Please let D. Stillinger know if you see contractors working in the ROW along with their company name and anything else you think is important.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- February 2012. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning Currie, 43 Susan Drive, B 20 L 15 building on steep slopes.
- January 2012. Letter sent to Township Committee urging purchase of a gas rather than diesel backup generator for the sewage treatment plant at Chatham Glen.
- October 2011. Letter sent to Mayor Hagner commending Morris E. Enyeart (Township Webmaster-City Connections LLC) and Tom Salvat (Manager-Chatham Township Governmental Access TV / Electronic Community Bulletin Board) for their outstanding work and tremendous help in greatly improving CTEC's website, archiving, and public service communications. Letter (in e-mail form) sent to Senator Menendez urging full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

EVENTS

- ANJEC EC commissioner training March 3 (9 AM-12:30 PM Metuchen), March 19 (5-8:30 PM Evesham), March 24 (9 AM-12:30 PM Denville). See anjec.org for more information. Free for CTEC members.
- ANJEC commissioner training Monday March 12, 7-9 PM, Bernards Township Court Room (1 Collyer Lane, Basking Ridge). Free for CTEC members. F. Esposito plans to attend.
- SEAMLESS, every first Tuesday at 8 AM. Madison Library.
- xxxx Ground Water Protection Committee. Willow Hall, 330 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, NJ 07960.
- Consider joining the 2012 class of Rutgers Cooperative Extension's Environmental Steward training which will be offered in Atlantic, Warren, and Somerset counties, from January to June. Info at envirostewards.rutgers.edu.
- NJCF Annual Rally, March 10, 2012, Brookdale Community College. About \$80. www.njconservation.org.
- Thursday, March 15, 7:00pm - 9:30pm, ANJEC workshop, Assessing Development Impacts: Regulatory Tools to Protect the Water in Your Community. Lawrence Twp. Town Hall, Lower Level Meeting Room, 2207 Lawrence Road, Lawrence Twp. Recent changes in the state regulatory landscape have made environmental protection all the more critical at the local level. Free but register ahead of time at anjec.org or 973-539-7547.
- Garden State GreenFest, Friday, March 23, 9 am-2 pm, Saturday, March 24, 9 am-5 pm
Kean University, Harwood Arena, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union
Garden State GreenFest is dedicated to educating, inspiring and empowering children and adults to come together in their communities and workplaces to create a more sustainable planet for future generations. Adult tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Children 17 and under free, as well as students with ID. Seniors 62 and over are free on Friday.
- New Jersey Environmental Federation's 26th annual environmental conference: Saturday, May 12, 2012 (8 am – 5 pm). "Recharge the Economy, Invest in the Environment" will be held at Rutgers University Center for Law & Justice in Newark, NJ.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Minutes of meetings of Chatham Borough and Long Hill Environmental Commissions.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 10:00 PM

Carolyn Scannelli
Minutes Secretary